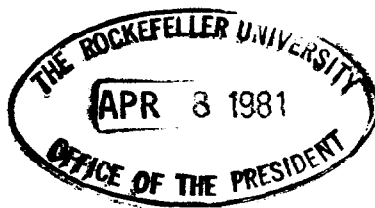


PLASTICS TECHNOLOGY

MACHINERY/MATERIALS SYSTEMS FOR MAXIMUM PRODUCTIVITY

633 THIRD AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017 • 212/986-4800 • A BILL PUBLICATION



April 8, 1981

Dr. Lederberg:

Here's a copy of the paragraphs I put together after our lunch yesterday. If you have any objections to the way I construed your remarks, please give me a call by the end of the week. Again, thanks for taking time to speak with us. Your comments make a very valuable addition to our regulatory coverage.

Sincerely yours,

Mike Hartung
Mike Hartung

Michael Hartung
Associate Editor

Title: Regs

Date: May

Editor:

MH

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1-Plus

NF

20-Plus

2-Plus (2X)

1- Dearth of good data threatens rational regulation Lab-
 2- oratory studies that simulate the effect of toxic sub-
 3- stances on humans are raw material for nearly every
 4- health standard that is written, yet a leading scientist
 5- finds the research woefully inadequate. "I am dismayed
 6- about the very nearly total irrelevance of most of the
 7- toxicological testing that goes on these days," says
 8- Dr. Joshua Lederberg, president of Rockefeller University, N.Y.C.,
 9- and Nobel laureate. "Testing protocols for carcinogens
 10- do not even reflect what we know about the mechanism of
 11- cancer initiation and promotion," he told PT. In his
 12- view, it is imperative that universities, industry and
 13- government agencies develop new research methods and
 14- disciplines to generate better scientific data which
 15- can direct the course of future rule-making.

16- Recent court decisions have stressed the need for
 17- government regulators to base their ~~regulations~~ ^{standards} on
 18- demonstrated hazards and remedies. OSHA, for example,
 19- has seen its benzene and lead standards ~~repealed~~ ^{to support} for
 20- further evidence ^{to support} their provisions. But good data is often
 21- simply not available, says Lederberg, and with government
 22- research funds shrinking, the task ~~increasingly~~ ^{more often} falls
 23- on universities and industry to do basic research on
 24- health hazards. "Industry, in particular, has a vanishing
 25- opportunity to keep its credibility ^a responsible seg-

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1- ment of society," Lederberg remarks, "and academic
2- disciplines haven't been flexible enough to respond to
3- increasingly complex toxicological threats."

4- Under Lederberg's leadership, Rockefeller Uni-
5- versity is setting up a comparative toxicology lab to
6- investigate body mechanisms of carcinogenesis and neuro-
7- toxicology. Researchers ^{will} ~~would~~ reportedly rely more
8- heavily on monitoring human reaction to toxic chemical
9- exposure by testing the body's response to accidental
10- exposures. ~~Only the Massachusetts Institute of Technology,~~

11- ~~Cambridge, Mass., is embarked on a similar program,~~

12- ~~says Lederberg, and useful data may be at least five~~

13- ~~years away.~~ Despite the Reagan administration's call

14- for cooperation with industry in rule-making, Leder-

15- berg believes public opinion will more and more demand

16- that ^{stringent} ~~some~~ regulatory steps be taken to control toxic

17- chemical production and disposal, ~~perhaps~~ ^{We want to be sure these do not} needlessly

18- ^e ~~stifling~~ innovation and business growth.

19- 1 line #

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"We'd research an industrial chemical accident with the same rigor that investigators use in an airplane crash. Accidents can tell us a lot about the limits of ~~human~~ tolerance," says Lederberg.

of structures
and of people

home's
down first
today.

✓ OK/MJE
4-8-81